Bombay Courier Extraordinary.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1816.

THE COURIER
EXTRAORDINARY.

THURSDAY. DECEMBER 19, 1816.

THE Right Hon'ble the Governor in Council is pleased to publish for general information the following Proclamation by His Excellency R. T FARQUHAR, Esq. Governor and Commander in Chief of the Islands of Mauritius & Dependencies, Captain General and Vice Admiral, &c. &c. &c.

PROCLAMATION.

IN THE NAME OF HIS MAJESTY GEORGE III. OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND,

KING

HIS EXCELLENCY R. T. FARQUHAR, ESQ; GOVERNOR AND COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE ISLANDS OF MAURITIUS AND DEPENDENCIS, CAPT. GENERAL AND VICE ADMIRAL,

&c. &c. &c.

Whereas the late extensive conflagration has reduced to ashes the chief part of this City—that part inhabited by the most crowded population,—containing the greatest part of the commercial property and riches—and especially the mass of provisions and merchandize destined for the consumption of the Inhabitants, together with the warehouses, stores, yards and shops, in which those articles were daily sold, wholesale, and retail, thereby cutting off, at the source, whatever gives support and activity to the existence and to the interior and exterior commerce of this Island.

And whereas in consequence, a great number of families hitherto in affluence, and in independent circumstances, the result of their industry and economy, during a long residence in this Colony, are thus reduced to extreme indigence, and left without a home.

And whereas in this Island, which is exclusively commercial, and where the properties and interests of all individuals are necessarily interwoven, it is indispensable to take the most expeditious and efficatious means to prevent the total ruin of public credit, both at home and abroad, general bankruptcy, and all its concomitant miseries.

And whereas the means of avoiding those evils, which would be still more fatal than the immediate results of the conflagration, consist in the new and vigorous exercise of labor and industry, which can only be effected by taking off every possible restriction on trade and commerce to which exclusively this Island owes its subsistence and support.

And whereas the distance at this Island is situated from the mother country, and the surrounding Governments, throws every hope of resource to an indefinite distance, and obliges us in this moment of urgent necessity to depend solely on ourselves:—Considering the experience of former calamitous junctures in these Islands—the near approach of the hurricane season,—the unfavorable monsoon already set in,—and almost the whole crop of Madagascar, warehoused in this Island, being destroyed by the flames.

And whereas, were the restrictions of the Proclamation of the 18th of May last to continue, the population would be inevitably deprived of the necessaries of life.

And whereas the total failure of the public revenue of this Colony, both from the destruction of the great source of internal taxation, and the restrictions of commerce, would throw the whole expense of the administration upon the mother country:—

And whereas, it appears that the greatest part of those evils may be averted, or assuaged, by adopting such extraordinary measures, as the extraordinary and imperious nature of the conjuncture indispensably requires—by acceding to the universal and anxious desire of the inhabitants, to remove, until the pleasure of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent shall be known, every possible restriction upon their industry;—

Therefore, and by virtue of the Royal Commission under the great seal and the Royal instuctions, under the sign manual, by which, in cases of extreme importance, the Governor is authorised to provide for the safety and security of the Possession, by the adoption of such measures as the urgency of the moment, and necessity of circumstances, may require, giving immediate notice thereof to His Majesty's Secretary of State;—

Orders and it is hereby Ordered:

ARTICLE 1ST.

The provisions of the Proclamation, under date of the 18th of May last, respecting the restrictions laid upon the trade of this Island are suspended for the present, as well with respect to the vessels now in the harbour, as with respect to those which may hereafter arrive, and the articles of the Proclamation of the 31st of October, 1814, which regulate the trade of this Island, shall be revived, and be in full force, until further orders, with the exceptions in favour of British goods and manufactures enumerated in Article 2.

ARTICLE 2d.

Are excepted all articles composed of cotton, iron, steel, and wool, of foreign manufacture.

ARTICLE 3d.

The provisions of this Proclamation shall be in full force, until the commands of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent shall be known on the reference to the Royal pleasure on the existing calamities of this Island.

ARTICLE 4th.

The present Proclamation shall be read, published, and registered in all the Courts of this Colony, and a copy thereof addressed to His Honor the Chief Judge and Commissary of Justice.

Port Louis, Mauritius, 1st Oct. 1816.

R. T. FARQUHAR.
(By Order) G. A. BARRY,
Chief Sec. to Govt.

Published by Order of the Right Hon'ble the Governor in Council,
F. WARDEN,
Chief Sec. to Govt.

BOMBAY CASTLE,
18th December 1816.

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